276 It is expensive Aden
435 it has been calculated that Qāt costs the addicts in the Colony £2,500,000 a year.

276 The Unofficial Members were not concerned primarily
434 with the effect of the drug on the constitutions of the addicts, but with the economic aspect of the problem. The majority of those who use Qāt are in the lower wage brackets and cannot
648 really afford to buy Qāt without seriously neglecting their family responsibilities. After much careful thought the Asiatic
671 Unofficial Members tabled a motion in the Legislative Council at the beginning of 1957 calling on the Aden Government to take action to prohibit the entry of Qāt into the Colony. The motion was not opposed and in due course action was taken
548 and Qāt was prohibited. However, the Aden Government has
648 no control over the States of the Protectorate and the Sultan of Lahej, through whose territory Qāt from the Yemen and from Dhala must pass to reach the Colony, was unwilling to co-operate with the Aden Authorities. Not only did he place no restriction on the movement of Yemen and Dhala Qāt through his territory but he allowed Qāt from Ethiopia, brought by launch and sailing craft from Djibouti in French Somaliland to which place it had been flown from Ethiopia, to be landed on his coast and taken to Dar Saad on the Colony boundary and other places in his territory. The immediate consequence of the Sultan's action was to turn the village of Dar Saad into one vast Qāt chewing den to which resorted all the citizens of Aden who used the stuff and could afford the transport. Why the Sultan did this dis-service to the Colony is hard to say. He may have been unwilling to annoy the Yemen Government, fearing retaliation along his frontier with that country, or he may have thought that action by him to prohibit Qāt from passing through his territory would result in the Imam closing the frontier, as he has done on more than one occasion in the past, with a consequent loss of revenue to the State from road tolls. On the other hand, he may have felt that the order of prohibition was an unjustified infringement of the liberty of the subject to which he could not subscribe, and was not prepared therefore to do anything to interrupt the supply from any source. Whatever were his reasons the result

1 [i.e., Qāt. - Ausgust]

G-Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

VIII.—LABOUR

Agricultural Labour

241 There being no agriculture in the Colony, the question of agricultural labour does not arise.

Industrial Labour

464 Workers for heavy manual labour are obtained from the Protectorate and the Yemen. This form of labour is principally confined to the shipping companies and the salt works. The demand for cargo and coal coolies varies, and the local companies arrange through their agents to recruit labour as and when required. The salt companies employ a permanent staff of coolies who are recruited by local agents from the Protectorate and the Yemen. These agents arrange to replace casualties and recruit extra labour when necessary.

466 The interests of the workmen are safeguarded by the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, which are in force in the Colony.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING

463 The inhabitants of Aden are principally engaged in trading, shop-keeping and domestic employment. The large numbers of coolies employed by the salt-works, shipping concerns and contractors are drawn from the Aden Protectorate or the Yemen. The small harbour craft are manned by Somalis, who take kindly to this form of semi-sedentary employment.

464 More than half of the personal servant class comes from the Aden Protectorate and the Yemen. Clerical labour in public offices and large commercial firms is largely Indian, although as education improves more local Arabs are finding employment in Government offices and with European firms. Local Arab firms employ Arab clerical labour almost exclusively.

Masons and building operatives are drawn principally from the 465 Yemen. The following rates of wages are paid.

Coolies from 8 to 12 annas a day (8 hours).
Masons from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Carpenters from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Clerks from Rs. 35 to Rs. 250 a month (according to grade).
Personal servant Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 a month.
Motor drivers Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 a month.

262 The daily staple food of a coolie is 2 lb. flour, 2 ounces of ghee, 535 and also fish or meat to the cost of about 2 annas. The total value 465 of the food consumed daily is about 6 annas.
5A

S.Ot. Brit., Colonial Office G-8 (1947) 1949 1041 Aden M/M

foodstuffs available to the public at cheap, and in the case of flour at subsidised, prices. The position of entrepot goods, particularly textiles, fluctuated during the year. At the beginning of the year the position was difficult but supplies of American textiles and later of Japanese and Chinese textiles enabled the merchants to re-establish this trade, which was assisted as much as possible by the ready granting of re-export licences to countries within Aden's economic orbit.

There was an increase in the cost of living during the year though a slight fall occurred latterly. The increase was accounted for mostly by an increase in prices in common articles imported from outside. For instance, rice rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per pally owing to the imposition of an export tax by the Government of Egypt, and soap increased from 4 annas a cake to 6 annas. It must be borne in mind, however, that the consumption of the various articles which together make up the cost-of-living figures have altered greatly since 1939, consumers switching from one kind of foodstuff to another, depending on supplies available, and spending a smaller proportion of their money on articles, such as clothing, which have so greatly risen in price.

Colony Finances

The Colony opened the financial year on 1st April, 1947, with a surplus balance of about Rs. 190 lakhs. During the year it was estimated that the balance would be increased by another Rs. 13 lakhs. Consequently the surplus balance on 1st April, 1948, should be in the region of Rs. 203 lakhs. This figure is exclusive of Rs. 100 lakhs, which is in the Reserve Fund. The total net assets of the Colony therefore amount to over Rs. 300 lakhs (or £23 million sterling).

This is probably the high-water mark of the Colony's surplus. During 1948–49 it is proposed to spend Rs. 23 lakhs more than will be received in revenue. This will reduce the surplus balance at the end of the next financial year to about Rs. 180 lakhs. The deficit in the 1948–49 Budget will arise entirely from the implementation of a part of the Development Programme; in other words, the deficit will be the result of capital expenditure. Revenue still balances recurrent expenditure despite the repeal of the excess profits tax, but the margin is now very small.

Customs and Excise Department

The work of the Department continued on normal lines during 1947, and there was no falling off in the collection of excise duties, which amount to about 15 per cent. of the revenue of the Colony.

Taxes on Income

The collection of revenue from income tax and excess profits tax continued to be satisfactory in spite of heavy excess profits tax refunds made on account of deficiency of profits.

The following legislation was enacted during the year:

(1) The Excess Profits Tax Ordinance No. 9 of 1947, which provides that the tax shall not be chargeable on profit earned after 1st May, 1947.

5:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MMI Aden MMI

estimate 5,000 men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepot industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries—garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water (Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the population and to the chronic under employment and poverty.

Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are always low, partly on account of the very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of education and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

For skilled workers the outlook is far better. There is such a dearth of trained or capable men that they command good wages.

The wages of unskilled labour were about Re. 1 a day (1*s.* 6*d.*), and it is possible to support a family on this sum. Immigrant labourers from the Yemen, who come to Aden as single men, even manage to save up enough to return after a year or so with clothes for their women-folk and money to pay off debts or buy land. Of skilled trades, carpenters earn about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a day (4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*), blacksmiths much the same, welders about Rs. 100 (£7 10*s.*) a month or more. Hours vary from 48 to 60 per week in the various industries.

The following are the prices of a few of the more necessary commodities:

Food

Butter, Rs. 2.4.0 per lb.
Cheese, Rs. 1.1.0 per 12-oz. tin.
Fish, about 1 anna for a fish of the herring type and size, or less for coarser fish.
Flour, 5 as. per lb.
Ghee, Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.8.0 per lb.
Meat, 10 as. to 12 as. per lb.
Potatoes, 4 as. per lb.
Rice, 7 as. per lb.
Soap (Key Pale), 6 as. per 250-gram cake.
Sugar, brown, 5 as. per lb.
white, 6 as. per lb.
Tea, Rs. 1.14.0 per lb.

Clothing

Sheeting, coloured, Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 per yard.
Shirt, Rs. 5.
Shirting, white, Rs. 1.8.0 to Rs. 1.12.0 per yard.
Tropical suit, Rs. 60 and upwards.

S.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MMI Aden AA.AA.1

Utilities and Petrol

435 Electric light, 5 as. per unit.
Water, 4 as. per 100 gallons.
Petrol, Rs. 1.6.0 per gallon.

Rents are high and accommodation scarce. Board in an inferior hotel costs about Rs. 10 per day.

466 In the absence of a specialised Labour Department, the District
[467 Commissioner investigates such complaints as are brought to his notice.
468] There are no trade unions. Three strikes were reported and in each case settled by raising the wages of the employees to bring them into closer relation with the rising cost of living.

The following is the more important labour legislation in force in the Colony in December, 1947.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance (*No.* 20 *of* 1938)

This prohibits the employment of children under 15 years of age, and the employment of women or young persons between 15 and 18 years of age on night work or in specified occupations.

Factories Ordinance (*No.* 21 *of* 1938)

This provides for the health and safety of persons working in factories, their hours, holidays and overtime pay, and provides for the appointment of factory inspectors.

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (*No.* 40 *of* 1939)

This provides for the free medical treatment of workmen and their compensation in the event of injury causing loss of employment or death.

Minimum Wage and Wages Regulation Ordinance (*No.* 17 *of* 1940)

This provides for fixing the minimum wages to be paid in any occupation.

Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance (*No.* 23 *of* 1942)

This legalises trade unions and makes provision for their registration and the audit of their accounts. The English law as regards "intimidation" is followed.

Contracts of Employment (*Indigenous Workers*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 45 *of* 1942)

This provides for the employment of natives of Asia or Africa and requires contracts of employment for periods over six months to be in writing and approved by an authorised officer. It provides for the repatriation of employees working in other territories.

Labour Ordinance (*No.* 6 *of* 1943)

This regulates contracts of employment, requires contracts in writing to be approved by the District Commissioner, and makes provision for deeds of apprenticeship.

There is no old age pension scheme in Aden, but small grants from a Poor Relief Fund are made to the aged destitute.

S.Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 M&I Aden M&I

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

436 The official currency of the Colony is the Indian rupee. Exchange at par
438 is Rs. 1 to 1s. 6d.

The amount of currency in circulation in December, 1947, was estimated to be:

Coin, Rs. 3,00,000 Paper, Rs. 2,00,00,000

453 The following banks operate in Aden:
The National Bank of India Ltd.
The Exchange Bank of India and Africa Ltd.
Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros.

[454] There is one Savings Bank operated by the Post Office: depositors, 2,411; deposits, Rs. 11,40,149; and capital, Rs. 20,13,916. The deposits are invested in gilt-edged securities in London.

Chapter 5: Commerce

439 Apart from the export of salt, the bulk of the trade of Aden falls into two main classes, namely, entrepot and transhipment.

The raw produce of neighbouring countries is transhipped at Aden to the markets of the world, and manufactured goods arrive at Aden for transhipment to consuming countries in the vicinity. The importance of Aden as a bunkering port for supplies of coal and oil ensures frequent shipping opportunities. The salient features of the import trade are repeated in the export figures, as the bulk of imports are re-exported. The principal business is in skins, hides, coffee, cotton piece-goods, cotton yarns, dates, grain, pulse and flour, sugar, tea, spices, oils, tobacco, gum, shells and salt.

[441] The entrepot trade is in the hands of large merchants, European, Indian and Arab.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

	1936 *Million gallons*	1941 *Million gallons*	1947 *Million gallons*
Total water raised from boreholes .	205	353	578
Water consumed by civil population .	45	115	181
Water sold to shipping . . .	18	65	52
Water consumed by military . .	25	96	120
Water used in gardens . . .	76	52	114
Other purposes, including water unaccounted for.	41	25	111

As no census was taken in Aden between 1931 and 1946, reliable figures of the average daily consumption per head of the civil population for 1936 and 1941 cannot be given. The figure based on the 1946 census is 9·9 gallons per head per day.

The water is pumped direct from the boreholes into reservoirs, and gravitates through a 15-inch diameter pipeline 7 miles in length into the Isthmus, where it is pumped into service reservoirs, and distributed to the various parts of the Colony by gravitational mains, of which there are over 26 miles of 2½-inches diameter and above. The total capacity of the reservoirs in the Colony is 2,850,000 gallons.

All supplies are metered, and at the end of 1947 over 4,400 domestic water meters were in use. Four hundred and one new connections were given in 1946.

The cost of water to the general public is 4 annas less 10 per cent. per 100 gallons (approximately 3*s.* 3*d.* per thousand gallons). The revenue derived from the sale of water during 1947 was Rs. 6,84,250 (£51,318) and the total expenditure Rs. 5,98,970 (£44,923).

Seven per cent. of the total water used by the general public is supplied free of charge from 26 standposts erected in various parts of the Colony.

Although the water at source is of a very high standard of purity bacteriologically, it is automatically chlorinated to combat any possible pollution through dust or any other agency.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The water-works department is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of all sewers in the Colony. All sewage discharges into the sea through five separate sea outfalls taken to just below low-water mark. Except at Sheikh Othman, where small primary settling tanks have been constructed there are no sewage disposal works.

In order to minimise the fouling of the harbour and beaches all water-closets are required to discharge into the sewers through a septic tank, where all solid matter is first liquefied.

Government have approached an eminent London firm of consulting engineers, with a view to the preparation of a complete sewerage scheme for the Colony.

The cleansing of sewers is carried out by the Public Health Department.

5:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

the cost of electricity to the general public is at the rate of 5 annas

435 per unit for lighting and fans, and 2 annas per unit for refrigerators. The power rates for industrial purposes vary with the amount used, and whether or not condensers are fitted to the motors. The average rate, however, is approximately 2·57 annas per unit. (An anna equals 1·125 pence.)

651 Revenue from all sources in 1947 was Rs. 11,00,000 (£82,500).

652 Accurate figures of expenditure cannot be given at present as the Crown Agents accounts for the latter end of the year have not yet been received, but it is estimated that it will be about £81,000.

Consumers at the end of 1947 numbered 3,069, compared with 2,736 at the same date last year.

OTHER PUBLIC WORKS

Maintenance of Buildings

653 Government own most of the buildings used for public purposes in the Colony and a large staff is maintained by the Public Works Department in maintaining them in a proper state of repair and carrying out minor improvements.

New Buildings

All new Government buildings were constructed departmentally by direct labour and the principal works completed in 1947 were:

	£
Conversion of an existing office into a Secondary School for boys	3,800
Conversion of an existing barrack in the Armed Police Lines into married quarters	2,000
Alterations to Prison Buildings	1,500
Extension to Office of Public Works Department	3,500
New Slaughter-House and Segregation Stable at Maalla	800
Construction of 40 working-class quarters at Sheikh Othman	9,000
Conversion of Cable and Wireless Building into flats for Government officials	2,700
Garages, tiffin room and store at Secretariat	1,500
Quarter for Police Inspector, Sheikh Othman	650
Quarters for two Police Inspectors, Maalla	700
New Public Bathing Place, Crater	500

Mechanical Workshop

A small mechanical workshop is maintained where all motor transport of the Public Health and Public Works Departments are serviced and repaired. Animal-drawn vehicles such as refuse carts, night-soil tumbler carts, etc., are also made and repaired.

Building Plans

All deposited building plans submitted by the general public are first checked by the P.W.D. and then passed to the respective townships for formal approval.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

646 Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

643 The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

692 The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Quaiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Quaiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

632 During 1947 the local government of the Colony remained vested in the two Township Authorities, the larger being vested in the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embracing the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-European, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area covered by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket-making and lime-burning, and who look to the built-up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

[712] [361] 438 [643]

The members of the Boards which administer the local government of these two areas are at present appointed by the Governor. The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend the various municipal services such as the control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services and roads, the provision of recreational facilities for the public and the control of building operations. It has still been found necessary to maintain foodstuff stalls in the public markets in order to ensure that the majority of the population can purchase essential foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, at Government controled prices.

[135]

443 368 231 During the year the Authorities opened a new market for petty traders and hawkers, a new public bathing-place where baths, with soap and towels provided, can be secured at a nominal fee, and a new cattle stable to accommodate 350 milk cows at Sheikh Othman.

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

433 of imported thread into cloth or dyeing and printing of imported cloth for the local market, the crushing of sesame seeds for cooking oil, the manufacture of cigarettes and the fashioning (without the potter's wheel) 463 of crude earthenware jars for storing water. At a rough estimate 5,000 men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepôt industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries —garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water (Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the 464 glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of 467 the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the population and to the chronic under-employment and poverty.

511 Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are low, partly on account of the 465 very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of education and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

465 During the year there was constant pressure to increase rates of wages, not because of any increase in the cost of living (which fell slightly as 467 Japanese cloth at cheaper prices became available), but because of greater 468 organisation among the employees of the three big companies who service the port, and very largely because Government employees received substantial payments in anticipation of arrears of salary from 1st January, 1946, following the visit of a Commission of Enquiry. These interim awards to Government staff were immediately followed by demands for similar bonus payments from commercial employees, backed up by strikes or the threat of strikes, and these demands were generally conceded.

468 A strike of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's labour in November affected the port; a few ships were oiled direct from tankers or by the 504 services of office staff, but some shipping had to be diverted to other ports. The coal and other port labour joined the strike. The strikers refused Government arbitration, and after three weeks the employers conceded the majority of the men's demands.

465 A Labour Advisory Board, on which the Government, Port Trust and other substantial employers of labour are represented, has fixed the 464 minimum rate for unskilled labour at Rs. 1.6.0 (2*s.* 2*d.*) a day, and this rate is now paid by the big firms, but casual labourers who work for Arab or other small employers, do not achieve anything like this sum, even when in regular employment, and the monthly earnings of most men are greatly reduced by irregular employment.

Skilled tradesmen are insufficient for the requirements of Aden and so can command relatively good pay—up to Rs. 100 a month (£7 10*s.*) or more. There is also competition for skilled tradesmen from the oil-fields of the Persian Gulf, where high wages are being offered.

435 Commodity prices have not varied much during the year and the following are approximate figures for December, 1948 (price control is effective for such staple articles of diet as flour, rice and sugar):

6:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Food

4350

Butter, Rs. 2.4.0 per lb.
Cheese, Rs. 1.1.0 per 12-oz. tin.
Fish, about 1 anna for a fish of the herring type and size, or less for coarser fish.
Flour, 5 as. per lb.
Ghee, Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.8.0 per lb.
Meat, 10 as. to 12 as. per lb.
Potatoes, 4 as. per lb.
Rice, 7 as. per lb.
Soap (Key Pale), 6 as. per 250-gram cake.
Sugar, brown, 5 as. per lb.
white, 6 as. per lb.
Tea, Rs. 1.14.0 per lb.

Clothing

Sheeting, coloured, Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 per yard.
Shirt, Rs. 5.
Shirting, white, Rs. 1.8.0 to Rs. 1.12.0 per yard.
Tropical suit, Rs. 60 and upwards.

Utilities and Petrol

Electric light, 5 as. per unit.
Water, 4 as. per 100 gallons.
Petrol, Rs. 1.6.0 per gallon.

Rents are high and accommodation scarce.

[362 647]

There is no separate Labour Department and efforts to secure a Welfare and Labour Officer during the year were not successful. The District Commissioner acts as Labour Officer and investigates such complaints as are brought to his notice.

No labour legislation was passed during the year. The following are the more important Ordinances in force:

464 466 465

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance (*No.* 20 *of* 1938)

This prohibits the employment of children under 15 years of age, and the employment of women or young persons between 15 and 18 years of age on nightwork or in specified occupations.

Factories Ordinance (*No.* 21 *of* 1938)

This provides for the health and safety of persons working in factories, their hours, holidays and overtime pay, and provides for the appointment of factory inspectors.

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (*No.* 40 *of* 1939)

This provides for the free medical treatment of workmen and their compensation in the event of injury causing loss of employment or death.

Minimum Wage and Wages Regulation Ordinance (*No.* 17 *of* 1940)

This provides for fixing the minimum wages to be paid in any occupation.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

The craft used are of two kinds, the sambuk, which is a planked surf-boat of up to 35 feet long, and the huri, a dugout canoe imported from India to which a topstrake is usually added locally. Huris range from 8 to 30 feet and are popular because they can withstand neglect and rough usage. No power-craft are yet used for fishing. During 1948 there were 34 sambuks and 341 huris in the Colony.

Nets are all hand-braided locally. There are several types which operate by surrounding a shoal of pelagic fish which are then induced to gill themselves. Beach seins are also used and cast-nets are popular for small shoaling fish. Handlines are used extensively but longlines are not known.

Although prices are generally higher for consumption fresh than for salting, lack of transport prevents fish from reaching the Colony's markets in any quantity from outside a few miles radius. In consequence, landings are spasmodic and prices fluctuate widely, to the detriment of both fisherman and consumer. There is no provision for dealing with temporary gluts except by salting for export. Salt fish is beyond the means of the poorer people, as loss of weight during curing increases its price.

In short, the Colony's fishing industry is not at present able to maintain a steady supply of fish for a community of 80,000 people. A Fishery Officer has, however, been appointed and it is hoped that he will be able to improve the position in years to come.

The island of Perim at the mouth of the Red Sea is part of the Crown Colony. The Perim fishing community comprises between 20 and 30 families, who salt and export their surplus fish to an annual value of between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000. The Perim pearl fisheries have not been let since 1946, when the lessee is reported to have lost money on the enterprise.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from trochas shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

6:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

services, the maintenance and improvement of roads, the provision of recreation facilities for the Aden public and the control of building operations. It has still been found necessary to maintain foodstuffs stalls in the municipal markets in order to ensure that the majority of the population can purchase essential foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, at Government controlled prices.

During 1948 the Township Authorities were able to build a further 40 houses in Sheikh Othman for working class families, and recently 40 families were moved into them, their former insanitary mud and wattle hovels being destroyed thus removing a source of danger to public health. In Crater 12 houses were completed and allocated.

PORT ADMINISTRATION

The Port of Aden, which affords safe accommodation for vessels up to 34 feet in draught (vessels of deeper draught can be handled by working the tides), is administered by a Board of Trustees constituted under the Aden Port Trust Act, No. V of 1888. The Board is at present composed of four officials including the Chairman, and eight non-officials. The Trustees, with the exception of the Chairman, are appointed by the Governor for a period of two years. Vacancies during this period are also filled by the Governor.

The minimum depth of water at low tide available in the approach channel and the inner mooring basin is 36 feet; there are 19 first-class berths, including 11 oil berths, suitable for large vessels; 5 second-class berths, including 1 oil berth, suitable for vessels of medium size; 8 third-class berths suitable for small vessels. The oil berths are connected to the land installation by submarine pipe line; all berths are available for the supply of bunker coal and general purposes.

The Port Trust maintains a pilot service consisting of one Harbour Master and nine pilots.

The Aden Port Trust publishes a separate Administration Report.

Mercantile marine matters are dealt with by the Port Officer. The present incumbent is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Finance

The following statement shows the opening and closing balances with actual receipts and expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1948:

Opening balance on 1st April, 1947 .	Rs.	5,37,470	7 3
Receipts for the year 1947–48 . .		41,34,740	8 9
	Rs.	46,72,211	0 0
Expenditure for the year 1947–48 .		39,74,764	8 2
Closing balance on 31st March, 1948 .	Rs.	6,97,446	7 10

NOTE: The Port Trust Accounts are maintained for the financial year and not for the calendar year.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

874 will soon be available as well as the full-time course for younger students.

465 Wages remained stable throughout 1950, but towards the end of the year some increases were reported by employers in the building trade. The legal minimum wages remain as fixed by Regulation in April, 1949. There are probably some employers who still pay less than the required [435] minimum to unskilled labourers, usually immigrants from the Yemen. A comparative table of prices of a few commodities (*see* p. 11) indicate a fairly general rise in prices, and it is to be expected that in the near future there may be a general demand for increased wages.

466 468 Efforts have been made throughout the year to create better industrial relations by personal contact, visits and inspections of all places of work, and by some talks, posters, and leaflets. There are no trade unions in the Colony, and the workpeople have no conception of organisation or collective bargaining. Trade stoppages reported during 1950 numbered five, and about 2,000 working days were lost. The disputes were in all cases of a purely local nature involving one concern and its employees. All were ended by agreement and conciliation. In no cases was the Trade Disputes Ordinance invoked.

466 The only labour legislation introduced was an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance requiring compulsory notice of certain non-fatal accidents. This became law on 31st December, 1950, and the effect cannot yet be judged. The Labour Officer, the Principal of the Government Technical College and the District Commissioner are Factory Inspectors for the Colony. During the year, 102 inspections were made of factories registered under the requirements of the Ordinance. The main objects of these visits were to educate employers and works managers in the requirements of the Ordinance, and to suggest the use of guards for the more dangerous machinery. An attempt to organise first-aid classes for foreman and workers had to be abandoned owing to complete lack of support.

745 There are no Government schemes either contributory or otherwise for sick pay, unemployment relief, or old age pensions for the ordinary worker. Apart from the provisions made by Government and the Aden Port Trust for its employees, only four commercial concerns are known to have contributory schemes for employee gratuities. Scarcely half of the employees who could benefit from these schemes have so far become contributors. A number of the larger and old established firms provide some medical services, and at their discretion give gratuities to long service employees.

647 Towards the end of 1950 the Labour Advisory Board was freshly constituted. In the absence of any workers' organisations, special effort was made to nominate some non-employers on the Board. This Board should be a most useful body which will continuously have under examination all labour problems in the Colony.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES

435

Articles	*Unit*	1949	1950
Butter	per lb. tin	Rs. 2/4/–	Rs. 2/9/–
Cheese	„ 12-oz. tin	„ 1/1/–	„ 1/5/–
Flour	„ lb.	„ –/5/–	„ –/4/–
Rice	„ „	„ –/7/–	„ –/7/–
Ghee	„ „	„ 2/6 to 2/8	„ 1/4/– to 1/8/–
Mutton	„ „	„ –/12/–	„ 1/–
Potatoes ..	„ „	„ –/4/–	„ –/4/–
Sugar	„ „	„ –/5/–	„ –/7/–
Tea	„ „	„ 1/14/–	„ 1/11/– to 3/5/–
Soap	„ 250 grms.	„ –/6/–	„ –/5/–
Electric light ..	„ unit	„ –/5/–	„ –/5/–
Water	„ 100 gallons	„ –/4/–	„ –/4/–
Petrol	„ gallon	„ 1/6/–	„ 1/12/–

STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT

463

Persons directly occupied in the Port :

Port officials, all workers engaged in ship repairing, bunkering, cargo handling, lightering, on wharves, tugs, launches, etc., but not including fishermen.

Permanent and Semi-Casual Employees :

Supervisors, Managers, etc.	118
Clerks, typists, etc.	566
Artisans and tradesmen	1,336
Unskilled labourers	1,661
Apprentices or boys	86
Casual workers (average number)	2,500
TOTAL ..	6,267

Factories

Number of factories registered under the Ordinance ..	22
Total number of employees	3,290
Total number of visits of inspection	102

439 Control was relaxed on the local sale and distribution of margarine, cooking fats, butter and cheese, as supplies were fairly plentiful. Pepper was also decontrolled.

435 439 Rice, flour and sugar have continued to be imported by Government, and distribution and prices were strictly controlled until July, 1950, when rice was decontrolled, as supplies seemed adequate. There was a small decrease in the price of rice at the beginning of 1950, but prices have risen again. It had been hoped to remove all restrictions on the import of flour, but it was decided on the recommendation of the Trade Advisory Board that Government should continue to import flour until the end of the Australian wheat year; the price was kept down by adjustments from the equalisation fund. The price of sugar rose 43 per cent above that of 1949.

The control of petrol was completely relaxed in June, 1950, but owing to devaluation the price of petroleum products has risen. Iron and steel tubes, pipes and fittings still remain subject to an allocation system, but all other iron and steel goods have been freed from control. Supplies of cement appear to be adequate and, at the request of the Chamber of Commerce, sources of supply other than the United Kingdom have been included in the programme for 1951.

439 Trade with Japan and Western Germany was resumed in 1949. The export position has caused some dissatisfaction owing to restrictions by Eritrea and Somalia on the importation of goods from Aden.

It was decided to limit the countries to which hides and skins could be exported in order to defeat the practice of sending these goods to certain territories, whence they were re-exported to hard currency areas, without earning any hard currency for the sterling area.

457 435 The exchange control position has greatly altered since devaluation. The new dollar value of sterling is below the local black market rate and below the free market rate which operated in Ethiopia. As a result merchants are surrendering their dollars freely to control and the Colony's dollar earnings have increased substantially.

During the summer of 1949 an attempt to evade control on a large scale was discovered and as a result illicit transactions have been reduced.

It has been possible to release dollars to cover adequately the major part of Aden's essential requirements from the dollar area, and any dissatisfaction which merchants may feel from the refusal to allocate a percentage of the dollars earned by them as an incentive should be more than balanced by the overall advantages which accrue to them as members of the sterling area.

441 647 A Trade Advisory Board was set up early in 1950 consisting of four local merchants, with the Controller of Civil Supplies as Chairman, to review any trade or economic matter which is causing friction; and to consider all matters concerning the trade of Aden as an entrepôt port. It is also intended that the Board should advise on the most suitable means of giving effect to the operation of controls.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Average rates of pay in the Building Trade

Young persons under 18	*Shs.* 3.44
Unskilled Labourers	3.13
Masons	10.73
Carpenters	10.87

The hours worked by harbour and wharf labourers are irregular, depending on the movements of shipping in the Port. The usual hours, in workshops and in the larger concerns are 48 hours per week (six days), though in the building trade a 54-hour week is common. There is little night work except that necessary for the mooring and oil bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. Coal bunkering is not done at night. Sunday is the accepted day of rest. Paid holidays are not customary in Aden.

COST OF LIVING

An attempt was made by the Department of Economic Control to compile a cost-of-living index but it was not published because it was doubtful whether it was sufficiently reliable. A new index was then produced jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and the Township Authority and the first index figure was published on 15th July, 1952 and the second on 1st October. The figure on 1st October, 1952 showed an average rise of 20.89 points above that ruling on 1st April, 1951, and an increase in cost-of-living allowances and an adjustment to daily wages were made.

A list of some price-controlled commodities at 31st December, 1952 is given in the table on page 11.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Department is still small, but work-places are as regularly visited as possible with limited staff. Particular attention is paid to the creation of better industrial relations, and to the assistance of workmen in settling their compensation claims and wage disputes. Efforts are also made to prevent the employment of children, and inspection is carried out to control the employment of women and young persons. The Labour and Welfare Officer and the Principal of the Technical College are factory inspectors, and a qualified marine steam engineer is the boiler inspector. There are no employment exchange facilities.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The work-people of the Colony have no conception of labour organisation or of collective bargaining. The only registered trade union is the Aden Harbour Pilots' Association with a membership of 11 European pilots.

The Labour Advisory Board of nominated members, employers and non-employers, met nine times during 1951–52. It has not yet proved possible to nominate any workers' representatives to the Board, owing

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Workmen's compensation is now fairly generally understood by work people, and an increasing number of employers avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Labour Department in settling their claims.

There is no provision for unemployment assistance. There are no general schemes, either contributory or otherwise, for sick pay, unemployment relief, or old age pension for the ordinary worker. Apart from the provisions made by Government and the Aden Port Trust for their employees, only four industrial concerns are known to have contributory schemes and scarcely half of the employees who could benefit from these schemes have so far become contributors. A number of the larger and old established firms at their discretion give gratuities to long-service employees.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There are no training, rehabilitation, apprenticeship or training-within-industry schemes. Towards the end of 1952, however, a committee of practical engineers and builders under the chairmanship of the Principal of the Technical College produced, as a result of considerable study, recommendations for apprenticeship and trade testing schemes.

PRICES OF CERTAIN CONTROLLED COMMODITIES AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1952

	Unit	*Price*
Sugar, white	lb.	60c.
Sugar, brown	lb.	55c.
Flour, Australian	lb.	52c.
Butter	lb. tin	Sh. 4/63—Sh. 5/00
Cheese, Kraft	12 oz.	Sh. 2/55
Petrol	gallon	Sh. 2/64
Soap, Key Pale	cube of 250 grammes	52c.
Scotch Whisky	quart	Sh. 19/50
Kerosene	4 gallons	Sh. 10/15—Sh. 12/50
Rice, long, boiled, Burma	lb.	84c.
Coffee husk	lb.	80c.—Sh. 1/20
Eggs	each	19c.
Dry Ginger, West African	lb.	Sh. 2/88
Tamarind	lb.	57c.—67c.
Dry Chillies	lb.	Sh. 2/25—Sh. 3/00
Cumin seeds, Indian	lb.	Sh. 2/63
Cassia	lb.	Sh. 1/22
Tea, Calcutta fanning	lb.	Sh. 3/00
Milk, fresh	1½lb. bottle	75c.
Firewood	traditional bundle	5c
Matches, Key Brand	box	5c.
Charcoal	lb.	14c.—21c.
Loongies, various makes	each	Sh. 3/75—Sh. 17/50
Makramas, Sh. Othman (headkerchieves)	each	Sh. 3/75
Cigarettes, various brands	50	Sh. 2/50—Sh. 3/00
Bread (sold by baker)	lb.	56c.
White shirting, various makes	yard	Sh. 2/44—Sh. 3/19
White, drill, various makes	yard	Sh. 3/00—Sh. 5/44
Khaki, drill, various makes	yard	Sh. 3/00—Sh. 4/87

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

436 Indian currency was legal tender up to 30th September, 1951, thereafter the East African shilling became the legal currency in the Colony and Protectorate.

The amount in circulation on 31st December, 1952 was :

Coin . . £192,264. Notes . . £3,828,136.

453 The banks operating in the territory are :

485 The National Bank of India Ltd.
The Eastern Bank Ltd.
The British Bank of Middle East.
Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros.

There is one Savings Bank operated by the Post Office. The amounts deposited in it and the number of depositors were :

	1951	1952
Number of depositors or members	3,595	4,022
Total Deposits . .	*Shs.*5,774,584	*Shs.*5,990,820
Total Capital . .	*Shs.*5,792,332	*Shs.*6,020,112

The foreign exchange rates in force are as follows :

	Bank Selling Demand & T.T.	*Bank Buying Demand & T.T.*
Sterling . .	100½ & 100 3/16	99½ & 99 3/16
U.S.A. $ . .	*Shs.* 715=$100	*Shs.* 705=$100
Canadian $ . .	*Shs.* 729=$100	*Shs.* 720=$100
Swiss Francs . .	*Shs.* 100=60 francs	*Shs.* 90=60 francs
French Francs . .	*Shs.* 20=980 francs	*Shs.* 19=980 francs
Australian £ . .	*Shs.*1,609=£A.100	*Shs.*1,505=£A.100
Egyptian £ . .	*Shs.*2,060=£E.100	*Shs.*2,050=£E.100

Chapter 5 : Commerce

439 Apart from the export of salt, the bulk of the trade of Aden falls into two main classes, namely, entrepot and transhipment

The raw produce of neighbouring countries is transhipped at Aden to consuming countries in the vicinity. The importance of Aden as a bunkering port for supplies of coal and oil ensures frequent shipping opportunities. The principal trade is in skins, hides, coffee, cotton piece-goods, cotton yarns, dates, grain, pulse and flour, sugar, tea, spices, oils, tobacco, gum, shells and salt.

The entrepot trade is in the hands of large merchants, European, Indian and Arab.

The import and export figures given in the tables which follow relate solely to trade passing through the port of Aden. Overland trade from and to the Western Aden Protectorate is not recorded.

8:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Articles	Unit	1951 Quantity	1952 Quantity
Salt	ton	338,767	342,196
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	cwt.	19,961	19,543
" Manufactured	lb.	563,947	651,713
Seeds and Nuts for Oil	ton	3,596	4,216
Gums and Resins	cwt.	39,692	40,924
Oil, vegetable, non-essential	gallon	88,720	57,797
Hides	ton	1,550	994
Skins	ton	2,543	2,127
Cotton Twist and Yarns	lb.	7,901,587	4,356,027
Cotton piece-goods	yd.	100,975,202	96,605,920
Kerosene Oil	gallon	243,154	78,890
Petrol	gallon	2,067,304	1,500,938
Mineral Oil	gallon	1,266,055	12,212,083
Soap	cwt.	23,382	27,377

Specie by value for 1950	Shs.	9,434,790
" " " 1951	Shs.	6,992,038
" " " 1952	Shs.	2,443,700
Estimated Total Exports* (excluding specie) for 1950		£39,019,270
" " " 1951		44,366,410
" " " 1952		45,551,755

* Total exports include ships' stores and bunkers which amounted to £19,666,821 in 1950, £18,197,415 in 1951 and £23,983,228 in 1952.

Exports of grey sheetings were considerably reduced because the Sudan made direct purchases from India instead of looking to Aden for supplies; exports were further curtailed owing to congestion at the port of Mombasa which held up the shipment of many outstanding orders placed with Aden merchants. Up to the time of the federation with Ethiopia, Eritrea took more of Aden's exports than any other country. It is still too early to estimate the general effect of the federation on trade.

Export restrictions on vehicles of United Kingdom manufacture were relaxed owing to the improved supply position.

American demand for skins all but ceased from April to November, 1952, and the main exports were to Italy and France, with some demand for hides from Greece. Since November the skin trade to America has made a good recovery and there has been a more general demand from European countries.

Export licences are issued freely for all goods with the exception of rationed commodities, essential items in short supply, imports from the United States under the dollar allocation, and items of strategic significance.

There is a considerable trade in supplying and bunkering ships amounting to about half the value of total exports.

Export regulations are listed in the appendix to this chapter.

PRICES

To assist in the control of prices and to endeavour to ensure fair practices in shops a number of honorary Controllers were appointed

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MMI

435 early in 1951. On their advice profit margins in essential foodstuffs were reduced.

The Trade Advisory Board continued to meet.

APPENDIX

Import Regulations

439 Import licences are required for all goods with the following exceptions :

I. Unmanufactured goods, the produce of neighbouring countries listed below :

Eastern Aden Protectorate
Western Aden Protectorate
Somaliland Protectorate
Yemen
Ethiopia

with the exception of the following commodities :
Wheat ; Millet ; Plants ; Shrubs ; Cotton seeds ; Unginned cotton ; Cotton lint ; Banana cuttings ; Sugar cane cuttings.

II. Locally manufactured goods originating from and produce of the Aden Protectorate, the Yemen and the Somaliland Protectorate.

III. Passengers' accompanied baggage, or bona fide residents' personal effects.

IV. Commercial travellers' samples.

V. Bona fide gifts to residents in the Colony.

VI. Returned goods of British origin.

VII. Ships' bunker oil and petroleum products of every description, including lubricating oil, imported by :
The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (Aden) Ltd.
The Shell Company (Aden) Ltd.
Socony Vacuum Oil Company Ltd.
Caltex Oil (Aden) Ltd.
and supplies for the maintenance of their oil installations.

VIII. Coal for ships' bunkers.

IX. Government imports of flour and sugar.

X. Goods, supplies, furnishing and equipment for the official use of foreign Consulates or offices of Commissioners of Commonwealth countries.

XI. Goods, supplies, furnishing and equipment for official or personal use of the Desert Locust Control provided such goods, supplies, furnishing and equipment are not of United States origin.

XII. Imports allowed in under open general licence.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 M341 Aden

each boat for purchasing boats and gear, and maintenance of the crew. In repayment the exporters take as much fish as they can from the fishermen indebted to them. Despite the frequent disagreements over the value of fish caught, few *nakhoodas* ever get free of debt.

There are no fish factories but salting is carried out by seven Arab exporters, who sell most of the fish to Ceylon. A small fish-meal plant was installed by one merchant in 1951. Sardines, anchovies and shrimps are sun-dried and bagged by these exporters in the winter months. There is one ice factory in Indian hands; some of its production is utilised for fish boxes in the markets. A cold store in British hands has not been successfully used for fish storage owing to difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of fish.

Statistics of fishermen, boats and fishing gear and exports of dried and salted fish are given on page 26.

Marketing

Marketing of fish is done generally through a single auctioneer in each of the markets. Unofficial auctioneers exist who take about 12½ per cent of the selling price. In order to control as large a share as possible of the fish passing through their hands the auctioneer lends money to fishermen against the sole right to auction their fish. Fishermen who are not indebted are free to sell to any stall-holder or rent a stall for themselves but the fact that unofficial auctioneers offer ready cash results in most of the fish passing through an agent's hands.

Fluctuating supply and demand make it impossible to give reliable figures for the average price of fish but observation shows that about 70 per cent of the price paid by the consumer goes to the fishermen, 12 per cent to the auctioneer and 18 per cent to the stallholder.

The amount of fish taken to market is normally insufficient for the needs of the populaton except in the summer months when gluts are common.

Events affecting Production

The production of fish in 1951 was below normal particularly during the summer monsoon. This is attributed to the lack of strong winds and poor upwelling of cold water which normally drives fish to the warmer coastal water. Shoals of sardine were present early in December, 1951, off the Colony and moved slowly eastwards during January and February, 1952. Large yields were obtained and fresh and dried sardines were plentiful in the markets.

The summer monsoon of 1952 was a strong one and the majority of sambuk-owners did very well. The water temperature was 69°F on one occasion and fish normally living in rocks 15 miles out were caught in great numbers inshore. The shrimp and anchovy season was generally bad and few sardines had appeared by the end of 1952.

Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department comprises one Fisheries Officer, one